

The radio and TV broadcast spectra are public resources; they are NOT private property. Companies, such as Sinclair, are permitted to broadcast their content via that spectrum only insofar as they serve the public interest. It is the duty of the government, as the representative of the public, to hold such companies accountable and to guarantee that they meet their obligations to the public interest.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear violation of their obligation to the public interest, and serves as an example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

I urge the FCC to accept its responsibility and force Sinclair to fulfill their obligation to the public. If Sinclair does indeed air this highly charged film, then they must be required to air an alternative view of the facts, under the requirements of 'equal access' to the airwaves.

I further urge the FCC to institute policies and procedures that guarantee that future opinions are aired with equal visibility.

Thank you.

Thank you.